Recalling further the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[5] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] and the outcome document of the 2011 high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly on HIV and AIDS, entitled "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS",[7] which contain references to the rights, participation, well-being and perspectives of persons with disabilities in development efforts,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, or 1 billion people, of whom an estimated 80 per cent live in developing countries, and acknowledging the value of their contribution to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, continue to be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination and are still largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals and the internationally agreed development goals, and noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability, in particular the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the development agenda, major challenges remain,

Underlining the need for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development strategies and efforts with disability-targeted actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support,

Stressing the need for capacity development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence,

Concerned that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in disaster, emergency and conflict situations, as well as by poverty,

Concerned also that the continuing lack of statistics and reliable data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities,

Stressing the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics,[8] encouraging ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons

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[5] Resolution 65/1.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] Resolution 65/277, annex.

[8] Such as the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.15), and the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8), and their updates.

with disabilities by gender and age, and underlining the need for internationally comparable data to assess progress on development policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities,

1. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities,[9] held on 23 September 2013, at the level of Heads of State and Government, with the overarching theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond", and also reaffirms the commitments contained therein;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond",[10] and the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",[11] in which the consideration of the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue across the successor set of goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda was recommended;

4. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals[12] and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and acknowledges that the report of the Open Working Group integrates a disability perspective;

5. *Recognizes* the continued need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities in relation to the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have submitted information on progress made towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, including on specific priorities for action, and data and analysis on persons with disabilities, and urges Member States and relevant United Nations entities that have not already done so to submit the requested information;

7. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

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[9] Resolution 68/3.

[10] A/69/187.

[11] A/68/202 and Corr.1.

[12] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

8. *Welcomes* Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014,[13] in which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, which included making concrete recommendations on how to better promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including how to contribute to the realization of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

9. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional integration organizations and financial institutions to make a concerted effort to include persons with disabilities and to integrate the principles of accessibility and inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation of the development goals;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further improve coordination among existing international processes and instruments in order to advance a disability-inclusive global agenda;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and the transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

13. *Welcomes* the contributions made to the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities trust fund, and in this regard encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support its objectives, including by providing voluntary contributions;

14. *Requests* the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in particular to developing countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities;

15. *Welcomes* the opening of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the progressive implementation of relevant standards and guidelines with respect to the accessibility of facilities and services in the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] in particular when undertaking renovations, including interim arrangements;

16. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations and mechanisms, including the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with

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[13] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

disabilities, and the regional commissions to make all efforts to engage with and ensure accessibility for the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, in development processes and decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels;

17. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt a national disability strategy that can be operationalized, including through measurable and appropriate targets and indicators, and that assigns responsibility to and incorporates the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

18. *Requests* the United Nations system, in particular the Statistical Commission, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, within existing resources, to update existing methodologies for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, to obtain internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data on disability or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;

19. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics;

20. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, during the seventieth session of the Assembly, a panel discussion to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on disability and development[9] and to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with all relevant United Nations entities:

(*a*) To submit information to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution and of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, and to make appropriate recommendations to further strengthen implementation;

(*b*) To compile and analyse national policies, programmes, best practices and available statistics regarding persons with disabilities, reflecting progress made in addressing the relevant internationally agreed development goals and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be submitted to the General Assembly in a flagship report during 2018.

73rd plenary meeting
18 December 2014